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Imagery analysis report

Rapier SAM Deployment at Iranian Airfields (S)

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RAPIER SAM DEPLOYMENT AT IRANIAN AIRFIELDS (S)

1. (S/D) The Rapier surface-to-air missile (SAM) system, known to have been in the Iranian inventory for several years,¹ was first observed deployed after the takeover of the US Embassy in Tehran in November 1979. Three sites were originally deployed at both Tabriz Airfield [] and Shahrokhi AB Airfield [] during November (Figure 1). However, [] the sites at Shahrokhi had been removed, and those sites at Tabriz had been removed [].

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2. (S/D) Rapier sites were not observed again until tensions increased between Iran and Iraq in early April. [] three sites had again been deployed at Tabriz, with a fourth site being added by 10 May. Two of the sites are at the northwest end of the main runway, one is at the southeast end, and the fourth is approximately 1,400 meters south of the main runway (Figure 2).

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3. (S/D) Rapier sites were first observed at Tehran/Mehrabad International Airfield [] when three were identified. A fourth site was identified []. Three of the sites are deployed at the west end of the airfield and the fourth is at the north end.

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4. (S/D) Three Rapier sites were again observed at Shahrokhi AB Airfield []. One site is at each end of the main runway, and a third is approximately 1,900 meters northeast of the main runway and adjacent to the perimeter fence. The sites at all three airfields remained in place [].

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5. (S/D) The Rapier system is a highly mobile, fair-weather SAM system designed for defense against high-speed, low-flying tactical aircraft. The main components of the system (Figure 3) include a launcher which holds four missiles, an optical tracker, a power unit, and a Land Rover towing vehicle (Figure 4¹). An optional Blindfire radar guidance system has not been observed in Iran.

REFERENCES

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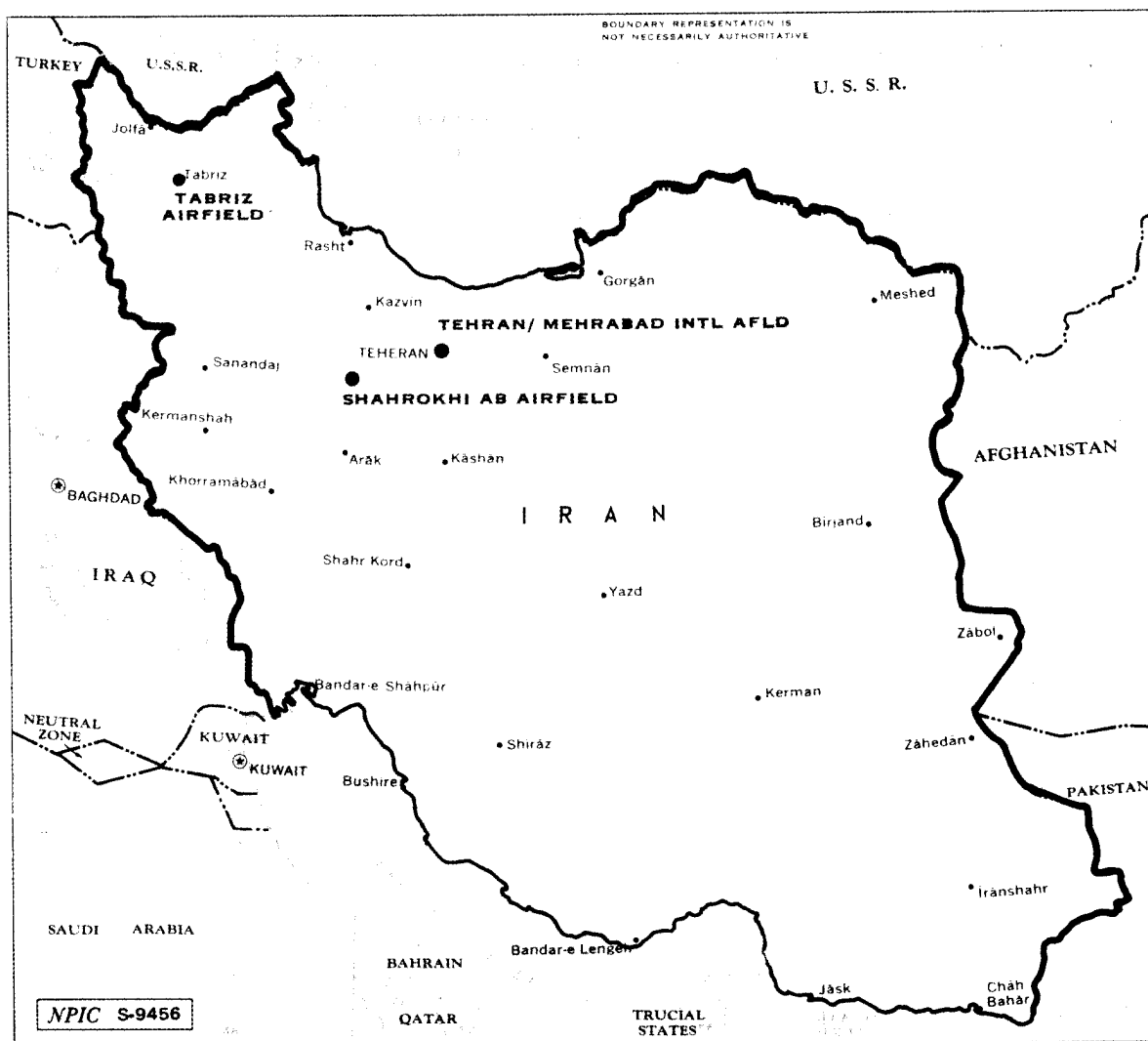


FIGURE 1. LOCATIONS OF RAPIER SITES, IRAN

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